

3-14-2006

Montana Kaimin, March 14, 2006

Students of The University of Montana, Missoula

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UM group shares
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Not in Missoula

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Mayo in your popcorn?

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MONTANA KAIMIN

TUESDAY, MARCH 14, 2006

VOLUME CVIII, ISSUE 77

Food festival starts international week

TY HAMPTON

FOR THE KAIMIN

Missoula residents came out in numbers and all ages Sunday at the UC to take in a day of cultural food, dancing, artwork and music at the 10th annual International Culture and Food Festival, marking the beginning of International Week at the University of Montana.

The festival began with a long line of students and families eagerly awaiting samples of freshly made ethnic cuisines. Within a half-hour, lines of people stretched wall to wall in the UC.

The festival is a good way to experience other countries' culture here in Missoula, said Helen Chung of the International Student Association.

"I go every year," said UM anthropology professor Gary Kerr. "It supports our international students and it's a great way to educate the community about culture through food."

Kerr said he always brings a container and loads up on \$30 worth of food to take home and eat on his floor with his dogs.

Food booths included a great diversity of foods such as South East Asian, American Indian, Estonian, French, Japanese, Chinese, Hmong, African, Cambodian, Greek, Mexican, Finnish, Indian, Swedish and cultural Arabic.

The Japan booth sold out of 150 portions of three kinds of sushi in less than two hours at the going rate of \$2 each.

Students Alisa Keser and Mo Mislivets enjoyed dining on a platter of Cambodian sticky rice with coconut milk.

"We're in heaven," Mislivets said.

Five-year-old Jack Koepke chowed down on some corn tortillas by the Mexican booth.

"He's eaten stuff from four booths and he seems to be loving everything he tries," said Aaron Koepke, Jack's dad.

"We had some Tikka turkey kabobs and they were pretty good," Aaron Koepke said. "They were a little spicy and peppery, but good."

The "Mount of Olives" Arabic Language and Culture Club booth

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Mercer resigns from BOR

DANIEL PERSON

MONTANA KAIMIN

John Mercer resigned from the Board of Regents Saturday, citing frustration with how the state is funding higher education and a desire to spend more time with family.

Mercer was chairman of the board, which dictates policy for the entire Montana university system.

Mercer said Monday that state funding of higher education is the lowest it has ever been in the history of the state, and that Gov. Brian Schweitzer has been unwilling to work with him to deal with that problem.

In his resignation letter sent to Schweitzer, Mercer wrote, "One of your duties set forth in the Montana Constitution is to serve as an ex-officio member of the Board of Regents. You have failed to attend a single meeting."

"I think he's just paranoid of people he sees as his political foes," Mercer said.

Mercer said Schweitzer has not met with him or tried to contact

him. "I don't know if he thinks I want to undercut him...or am interested in his job," Mercer said, adding that he is not planning on running for governor.

In an interview, Mercer continually pointed out that state funding for higher education is very low. Indeed, state support of the U-system has been falling year by year, and now is at 38 percent, leaving the rest to be shouldered by student tuition.

The governor's office is searching for a replacement for Mercer, said Sarah Elliott, Schweitzer's communication director. The governor's office generally does not respond to the type of criticisms lobbed by Mercer because it is not productive, Elliot said, but she did defend Schweitzer's history with Higher Education.

"This is the governor that increased Higher Education funding by 12 percent," she said.

Mercer was the Montana House speaker throughout the 1990s, a period that Schweitzer called "The lost years" of Higher Education funding.

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HULA IN MISSOULA



Kevin Hoffman/Montana Kaimin

Dance instructor Kelli Neumayer performs a hula dance in the UC Monday in connection with International Week. A free class will be given today from 1 to 2 p.m. in UC 332.

State spending cap could raise tuition

ZACHARY FRANZ

MONTANA KAIMIN

A proposal to cap the amount of money Montana's government can spend could result in less state money for universities, leaving students with higher tuition bills, said Montana's Student Regent Heather O'Loughlin.

"It could definitely affect tuition," said O'Loughlin, a University of Montana student. "I think it's something students should be aware of."

The proposal, called Constitutional Initiative 97, would limit increases in spending to a set rate based on population growth and inflation. If the bill's sponsors are able to gather 45,000 signatures by June 23, the initiative will

make its way onto the November ballot. Voters will then accept or reject the spending cap.

Colorado adopted a similar spending cap in 1992, but suspended it last year. The cap wreaked havoc on Colorado's university system, said Colorado Board of Regents member Michael Carrigan.

Before the cap was suspended, tuition at the University of Colorado in Boulder shot up 28 percent last year, Carrigan said. The university system didn't have enough money to improve facilities, faculty wages fell behind those in other states and some students were unable to graduate on time because of the tuition increases, he said.

Colorado now ranks 47th in the

nation for state and local support of higher education, one spot below Montana.

"I think Colorado is the perfect example of the impact you see with an initiative like this," said O'Loughlin, who has been talking to students in both Colorado and Montana about the effects of a spending cap.

Montana could end up in a situation in which there is money and there are programs that desperately need it, but CI-97 bars the state from appropriating its money to those programs, said Eric Feaver, president of MEA-MFT, Montana's largest public employees union.

Feaver compared the situation to a man who is dying of thirst in

See CAP, Page 8

EDITORIAL**Mercer waffles on the issues
on his way out the door**

While analyzing the current state of the Montana university system, it sure seems like someone could use a nap.

In fact, make that several people, or at least certain administrators whose maturity levels match those of kindergarteners. With John Mercer's announcement of his resignation as the chairman of the Board of Regents, it has become clear that petty partisan politics have interfered with the state's ability to fund the public university system once again.

In his resignation letter sent to Gov. Brian Schweitzer on Monday, Mercer begins: "I am writing you to gently point out your truancy, suggest a homework assignment, issue you a challenge and advise you of my imminent departure from the Board of Regents. Now I know I have your attention."

Mercer, a Republican who served as speaker of the Montana Legislature throughout the 1990s, goes on to accuse Schweitzer of basically failing to meet any of the promises he made regarding higher education.

Mercer's eloquently stated resignation implies that Schweitzer and the Democrats hold sole responsibility for the university system's present disarray. But just like the rebellious kids on a school playground, it doesn't take much for politicians to sneak over to the other side.

Though Schweitzer has made good on some of his 2004 campaign promises pertaining to education – he's increased funding for two-year programs and established a scholarship program aimed at keeping Montana's "best and brightest" in the state — he certainly hasn't made education one of his top priorities.

In 2000, the state shouldered about 50 percent of the cost of higher education. After the passage of Schweitzer's first budget in 2005, the state now covers only 38 percent, leaving students to foot the rest of the bill. As a result, in-state tuition at the University of Montana increased by 7.3 percent from 2004 to 2005.

Yes, Schweitzer has not devoted his entire tenure as governor to improving higher education, but the Republicans haven't really tried to play nice with him, either. To wrap up his resignation letter, Mercer made a direct jab at the governor's apparent distractions: "Governor, not coal, not land, not fleeting moments on the national stage... but rather students are our most valuable resource for the future of this state."

Mercer makes it seem like he has the students' best interests at heart, but just a few weeks ago he told the Helena Independent Record that while he served as a legislator, his "objective was to give the university system as little as possible so there would be money for other things. The value of the system just wasn't sold to me." This flip-flopping can only leave people wondering which side of the playground Mercer wants to be on.

With all this bickering and two-timing between parties, it's shocking that the university system continues to offer the quality of education that it does.

If Montana ever wants to rise out of the economic slump that has plagued it for decades, it needs to focus on funding education, from K-12 to graduate programs. Republicans and Democrats need to start cooperating on this issue and stop acting like the children they need to support.

—Allison Squires, news editor

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ANCIENT MARINER**Cineplex of doom**

ALEX SAKARIASSON

MONTANA KAIMIN

Darkness descends upon the terraced room. Voices turn to hushed whispers, then fall reluctantly silent as disapproving hisses echo off the walls. Someone in the back row winds up for a mighty sneeze and fails to muffle it, bringing on a hailstorm of insults and death threats. The Ancient Mariner twitches uncomfortably in the center of the theater. He gazes longingly at the exit sign, his mind filled with images of white porcelain bowls and cold metal fixtures. But the sour look on the face of the Scotsman next to him convinces the Mariner to bear the pain for another two hours. He never predicted this much trouble when he decided to visit the cinema of Euro-Neurotica.

Considering the countless stresses that come with life at the college level, I've always viewed a night out as nothing less than a method of prolonging my sanity. A quiet night indoors may put some students at ease, but it only fills me with fears that the outside world is talking about me behind my back. Visits to local dance clubs usually see me hiding underneath the table, rocking on my ass and mumbling about bass lines and heart palpitations. Pubs might offer a welcome distraction from my communal-shower phobia, if I didn't pass out halfway through my first Shirley Temple. The only evening endeavor with a list of neuroses short enough to attract my attention is a night at the movies, but even here the troubles seem endless.

For a neurotic, choosing the movie alone comes with its many risks. Does one slake one's lust for sub-par acting with the newest Vin Diesel film, or does one "broaden one's cultural horizons" by view-

ing the latest anime movie? The decision ultimately comes to rest on the shoulders of the most indecisive individual in the group, and I never like to admit that I'm up for a tear-jerking chick flick.

But what sorts of potential disasters await neurotics at the cinema in a place like Scotland? Walls of candy threaten to drain the wallets of even the stingiest individuals. Long lines of multilingual movie patrons can fill you with a sense of self-consciousness. Even the sub-titles can confuse and disorient you, as they may be printed in the Scottish language that still stumps most Oxford scholars.

Some clumsy boy knocks over a man's pint of Guinness while climbing across the seats, inciting a riot. A girl in the front row shifts nervously as the flamboyant Italian man sitting next to her leans closer over the armrest. Outside at the concession counter, a foreign student shrinks away in horror as the attendant asks, "Do you want mayonnaise on your popcorn?"

Ignoring the seemingly unfavorable odds against me, I agreed to a movie outing last Friday night. At first I thought of it as an opportunity to relax before leaping my final hurdle of the semester, but came to my senses before we even reached the cineplex.

Neil had informed us that the theater was a short bus ride away from our dorms. The rest of us trusted him as a veteran, and boarded the bus without any complaints. Twenty minutes later we stood at a bus stop several miles outside of Edinburgh, having missed the cineplex stop. Not one of them appreciated my frantic comments saying we would be late for the film, but my nerves just wouldn't settle. We caught a bus back in the direction from which we had come, and soon

stood outside the 12-screen cineplex.

Unfortunately, my worst fears were realized. By the time we had our tickets in hand, we had already missed the previews. Although this deemed our venture a failure in my mind, I followed the others into the darkened theater. A flashlight hit me sharply in the face and a gruff female voice asked for my ticket stub. Squinting and handing it to the woman, I wondered how much of the opening credits we'd missed. I was about to seat myself when the woman directed me to the very front corner of the room. "Your seat is over there, sir," she said in a matter-of-fact tone.

The cineplex veteran of our group had neglected to tell us about the establishment's assigned seating. Already feeling like a nuisance, I reached the edge of my aisle and coughed an "excuse me" at the man in the first seat. He shifted his legs slightly, creating an opening of about 10 centimeters for me to squeeze through. The opening scene of the film flashed across the screen as I clambered gracelessly over the laps of a dozen strangers, finally landing in a large plush seat. There had been no time to examine the cushion before sitting down, and I hoped that some crude former-patron hadn't deposited a nice wad of gum for me to find later.

More than two hours passed as the fragmented-yet-intriguing story line of "Syriana" unfolded before me. I tried desperately to focus on the "oil and corruption" commentary, but found my mind constantly straying to the pit stains growing under each of my arms. Comfort seemed a distant dream as I sat in the middle of that gigantic furnace, unable to move a single muscle for fear of drawing angry glares from nearby cinepatrons. At that moment I made a solemn promise to give dance clubs and pubs another try.

A mobile phone rings somewhere in the audience, followed immediately by the sounds of someone being mercilessly flogged. One hour into the film, the Ancient Mariner's fidgeting reaches a crescendo. He eyes the green letters of the exit sign like Ken Lay eyes a verdict of "not guilty." Unwilling to endure a long, insult-filled journey across the line of foreign thighs, the Mariner vows to never again enter a movie theater without visiting the little laddies' room.

MONTANA KAIMIN

Our
108th
Year

The Montana Kaimin, in its 108th year, is published by the students of The University of Montana, Missoula. The UM School of Journalism uses the Montana Kaimin for practice courses but assumes no control over policy or content.

Send letters to the editor to letters@kaimin.org or drop them off in Journalism 107

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New York, NY

3/13/06

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Free Cycles to put out fleet of 200 rental rides within a year

MURPHY WOODHOUSE

FOR THE KAIMIN

Free Cycles Missoula is rolling out a new way to get Missoula on two wheels – a program called CheckOut Missoula.

And if things go well, the program will begin providing residents with rental bikes April 1.

Currently, Free Cycles provides only the tools, parts and expertise necessary to build and maintain a bike, free of charge. CheckOut Missoula, on the other hand, will provide prebuilt, long-term rental bikes, said Jack Minnich, Free Cycles' shop coordinator.

"Instead of the headache of building a bike from scratch, you get a bike ready to go," Minnich said.

A \$20 deposit will be required to get a loaner bike, but it will be refunded if the bike is returned in working order. In Minnich's

words, "It would be free."

A lot of the program's details are still being hammered out, said Bob Giordano, executive director of the Missoula Institute for Sustainable Transportation, the parent organization of Free Cycles.

The length of the rental terms is still up in the air, but both Giordano and Minnich said they envision the program working much like a library. According to Minnich, renters will have the bikes for a specified amount of time, at the end of which they will bring their bikes in for a tune-up. If no one else is waiting for a bike, the rental could be renewed.

To accommodate students, Giordano and Minnich said they would also like to have a semester-long rental option.

Another one of the details yet to be worked out is how the bikes will be built. Whether they are assembled from spare parts or just

modified prebuilt bikes, the bikes will come fully loaded with a light, bell and lock, Minnich said. "We're trying to make safe cycling cheap," he said.

To make the bikes recognizable as CheckOut Missoula rides, a plate with an ID number will be welded to the body of each one, Minnich said. Area pawnshops will be told about the design in case someone tries to cash in one of the bikes.

Since Free Cycles offers most of their services for free, covering costs is difficult. To help with this problem, advertisement space on the CheckOut Missoula bicycles will be sold to local businesses for \$100 per year.

"[The bicycles] would be like moving billboards," said Minnich.

Though April 1 is the program's target start date, Minnich said he thinks it's a little unrealistic. A volunteer shortage has been the primary hindrance to keeping on

schedule, he said.

"Right now it's sort of one man cranking out bikes," he said. "More people is what we need."

A partial start-up sometime in April is more likely, with five to 20 bikes being released, Giordano said. The goal, however, is to eventually get 200 loaner bikes on the road, he said.

"Within a year, we'll have the full fleet out," Minnich said.

CheckOut Missoula will provide a service very similar to ASUM's Office of Transportation's Cruiser Co-Op, or yellow bike, program. But Giordano, Minnich and Nancy Wilson, director of the ASUM Office of Transportation, said they don't see a potential for competition between the programs. "They'd be perfect complements," said Giordano.

Wilson sees CheckOut Missoula and the Cruiser Co-op as having very similar goals. "The

more bikes, the merrier," she said. "Let's get more bikes out on the road."

Ryan Brunett, a freshman without a car or bike, thought CheckOut Missoula sounded like a great idea. "I'd definitely take advantage of that," he said.

Brunett said he has used the yellow bike program, but felt limited by the two-day checkout limit.

"The yellow bikes are useful for one-day things," he said. "But if you needed regular transportation, the Free Cycles program would be better."

Giordano sees the CheckOut Missoula program as part of a much larger movement toward a stronger bike culture in Missoula.

"This is not a program in isolation," he said. "We have to build a bike-friendly community for this to work."

Milosevic's death becomes center of conflicting rumors

ANTHONY DEUTSCH

ASSOCIATED PRESS

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) - A swirl of suspicion surrounded Slobodan Milosevic's death, with evidence emerging Monday that the former Yugoslav leader took medication he wasn't supposed to.

Among the scenarios being floated: Drugs smuggled into prison, a poisoning plot and the possibility Milosevic was undermining his own treatment in hopes of being sent to Moscow, where his wife and son live in exile.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said Moscow did not fully trust the autopsy report and would send its own pathologists to examine the body. The U.N. war crimes tribunal had said a heart attack killed Milosevic, according to preliminary findings from Dutch pathologists who conducted a nearly eight-hour autopsy.

Milosevic's family also want Russian pathologists to conduct a second autopsy, their lawyer said. Four Russian doctors were granted weeklong visas to visit the Netherlands.

There was concern that a funer-

al in Serbia could ignite nationalist passions and cause turmoil for the pro-democracy authorities who toppled Milosevic in 2000. Milosevic was overthrown after a 13-year reign in which many around the world blamed him for a series of wars that killed hundreds of thousands and left the former Yugoslavia a splintered ruin.

As plans for Milosevic's funeral remained in disarray and his son, Marko, headed to the Netherlands to retrieve the body, a Dutch toxicologist said Monday that the war crimes defendant took unprescribed antibiotics that may have worsened his health.

The assessment by Donald Uges – based on blood tests carried out

in recent months – raised questions about security at the prison and echoed past accusations by the trial's leading attorney that Milosevic repeatedly ignored medical advice and prescribed himself drugs.

Milosevic was found dead in his prison cell in The Hague on Saturday, just hours after writing Russian officials a letter alleging that an "extremely strong drug" was found in his bloodstream. Zdenko Tomanovic, his family lawyer, said Milosevic was "seriously concerned" he was being poisoned.

Milosevic had asked the tribunal in December for permission to seek heart treatment in Moscow. That request was denied after tribunal officials expressed concern Milosevic might not return. He repeated the request last month.

Serbian President Boris Tadic said the U.N. war crimes tribunal was responsible for Milosevic's death, though he added that it would not hamper Serbia's future cooperation with the court. Serbia was the dominant republic in the former Yugoslavia.

"Undoubtedly, Milosevic had demanded a higher level of health

care," Tadic said in an interview with The Associated Press. "That right should have been granted to all war crimes defendants."

He added, "I think they are responsible for what happened."

It appeared increasingly probable the body would be returned to Serbia for a politically charged burial that could be a rallying point for nationalists.

Marko Milosevic raised the possibility of a temporary burial in Russia – an apparent effort to get around the standing arrest warrant in Serbia against widow Mirjana Markovic.

But Tomanovic, the lawyer, said Monday it was the family's wish for his body to be returned to Belgrade, and prosecutors urged a Serb court to lift an arrest warrant against his widow temporarily – a sign that Serbian Prime Minister Vojislav Kostunica was working behind the scenes to ensure Milosevic's closest relatives will be able to attend the funeral.

Milosevic was arrested in 2001 and put on trial the following year on 66 counts for war crimes and genocide in Croatia, Bosnia and Kosovo during Yugoslavia's violent breakup in the 1990s.



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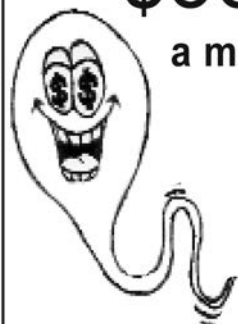


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KERIANN LYNCH

MONTANA KAIMIN

A crowd of passing students paused with curiosity in the drizzling rain outside the Native American Studies building Tuesday night. They listened as echoes of strong chants rose and fell with the steady beats of several drums and drifted out of the basement.

"We've got a crowd forming out there," said Roman Fisher, a junior at the University of Montana majoring in Native American Studies, as he returned to the basement from taking a phone call.

"Are you sure it's not the cops, coming to tell us we're too loud?" joked Stan Pretty Paint, a sophomore general studies major.

Fisher and Pretty Paint are founding members of UM's new Indian Singing Group. The group, which is sponsored by American Indian Student Services and the Office of Student Affairs, is in its third week. It meets Mondays from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the International House and Tuesdays from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the Native American Studies building.

The group was formed because its members missed singing traditional Indian songs, something most of them had done since their youth, said Pretty Paint.

"When I went to school at the Little Big Horn College (on the Crow Reservation east of Billings), there were a bunch of different groups available, and in Bozeman they have the Bobcat singers," Pretty Paint said. "Since I joined school here, I've missed singing."

For Fisher, the group is a chance to surround himself with people of a similar culture, relieve stress and feel a sense of home and community.

"It's a chance to get away from the everyday life where you're constantly around people who aren't of your own culture," said Fisher. "Here you can laugh how you want to laugh, tell the jokes you want to tell, sing what you want to sing and not be misunderstood."

The group, which has already performed at the opening ceremonies of the Kyi-Yo basketball tournament, UM's International Food Festival and Big Sky High School's Youth Celebration last



Ashley McKee/Montana Kaimin

UM sophomore Stan Pretty Paint hits a circle drum with the newly formed Indian Singing Group Monday at the International House. Pretty Paint, along with UM junior Roman Fisher, started the group three weeks ago.

weekend, sings mostly traditional grassdance songs, Pretty Paint said. Students who want to perform American Indian cultural songs are welcome to attend, even if they have little or no experience, he said.

The men sit in a circle and beat on hand drums as one begins to chant. They all rise and join in the beat and shifting melodies together, even though they may not all know the song.

"The vocalizations are similar to an opera singer, because you're singing a melody or a tune most of the time, not words," said Tonku Howard, a junior studying pre-law. "You train your ear to pick out a tune, and then, even if you don't really know it, you can still sing along."

American Indian music is often religious in nature, though songs range from dancing tunes to victory chants, said Pretty Paint.

Traditional singing is dominated by choral vocals and uses vocables — rhythmic, nonsense words repeated in melody to form a song.

"I used to listen to a lot of rap when I was younger, but then I got away from the group and you realize who you really are when you're away from those fads," said Fisher. "That's when I began singing and listening to our music, and now I love it."

MERCER

Continued from Page 1

Mercer called such comments hypocritical. He said Schweitzer used the Board of Education meeting, at which he made the comments, to "really lambaste the education funding of the '90s and talked about how great his efforts are," he said.

However, Mercer did acknowledge that he did not pursue more money for universities while he was a legislator. As a legislator, he thought the cost of higher education

was too high, and hoped universities would work on reducing the cost of education rather than pursue more funding, he said.

"Frankly, the state didn't have the money to put towards (funding) increases," he said.

Now, Mercer said he knows the state university system is actually very efficient, which he said made him more comfortable with seeing an increase in state funding.

As a regent, Mercer said he could not reduce tuition.

"The only thing I can do is cut the quality of your education to cut the cost," he said.

Student Regent Heather O'Loughlin, a

UM student, said she disagreed with many of Mercer's assertions.

"(Schweitzer) has made it clear that higher education is very important," she said.

"John Mercer certainly supported the university system and brought a lot to the board," she said. "But at the same time, I think the board has become more political the last four years. Take it for what it's worth."

Regent Mike Foster was more positive about Mercer's legacy.

"(Mercer) was able to digest complex issues and proposals," Foster said. "We'll miss his intellect and his leadership...and

his sense of humor."

Mercer was appointed to the Board of Regents in 2001 by Gov. Judy Martz and became chairman in 2003. Mercer had a little less than two years left in his term as a regent.

Foster will serve as the chairman of the board until May, when the regents will hold elections for a new chairman.

**Montana
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Wednesday, March 15

• Noon Atrium Performance
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• Ask-An-Alum Lunch: Women's Leadership
12:00 pm - UC Theater

MultiCultural Alliance Film Series:
Becoming American
7:00 pm - UC Theater
All films are free & open to the public.

Thursday, March 16

St. Patty's Day 9-Ball Doubles Tournament
6:30 pm Sign up. 7:00 pm Play Begins
UC Game Room

Town Hall Meeting
"Immigration: the American Enigma"
7:00 pm South Ballroom

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Griz recieve highest tourney seed in 100 years



Kevin Hoffman/Montana Kaimin
Eric Van Vliet, Austin Swift, Stuart Mayes and Virgil Mathew, appearing left to right, of the men's basketball team react to the news that they will be playing the No. 5 seeded Nevada Wolf Pack while celebrating as winners of the Big Sky Conference at Paradise Falls Sunday.

PETE DELMOE

MONTANA KAIMIN

With 100 years of University of Montana men's basketball in the books, it's hard to do something for the first time, but this year the Griz managed to pull it off.

On Sunday, Montana received the 12th seed in the Minneapolis

region for the NCAA tournament. It is the highest seed UM has ever had in their seven appearances in the NCAA tournament, and it ties the highest seed ever given to a Big Sky Conference team.

Montana will play the fifth-seeded Nevada Wolfpack, a former Big Sky Conference member. The Wolfpack won the Western Athletic Conference with a 13-3

league record, and are 27-5 overall.

In a packed Paradise Falls restaurant, the coaches, players and fans waited impatiently as the seedings and matchups were announced on the Selection Show on CBS.

The suspense seemed to build as bracket after bracket was announced with no news about

Montana. The Minneapolis region was the last one to be announced, but for most it was worth the wait.

"It's pretty awesome," said UM head coach Larry Krystkowiak. "I'm kind of flabbergasted by being the 12. You look at 350-some odd Division I teams and you know the committee looks at the people that have to be in the tournament and say we are worthy of basically (being) in the top 48."

When the seeding was announced the place erupted with cheers and high-fives. Many of the players expected a 14 seed or maybe even a 13, but they got more than they bargained for with the 12 seed.

"The 12. Just seeing that pop up and then seeing Montana going next to it was really surprising and felt really good at the time," said sophomore forward Andrew Strait. "Going through all the other ones (brackets) got you shaking and sweating a little bit, but it's definitely worth the wait."

Although the Griz (23-6 overall, 10-4 BSC) were surprised with the seed, it wasn't as if their play during the season didn't merit them a higher seed.

"I'm sure our team felt that we deserved a 12 (seed), but we just didn't know if what we did would be noted by the committee," said senior guard and Big Sky Conference tournament MVP Virgil Matthews.

Matthews said the higher seed is nice because it shows others are giving them credit, but it provides more than that.

"It's a little bit about respect,

but it also gives you a little confidence," Matthews said. "When you play a seed that's closer to you, it makes you feel like you belong with them rather than a 1-16 (matchup) where the name on the jersey literally wins the game for them."

After a long season filled with ups and downs, Montana finally had an opportunity to just kick back and wait for the good news. There wasn't a player or coach in the building who didn't have a smile on his face.

"We couldn't ask for anything more," said Strait, UM's leading scorer. "We achieved our ultimate goal of winning the Big Sky, and the 12 seed just puts the cherry on top of it."

The Minneapolis region includes No. 1-seeded Villanova, No. 2 Ohio State, and Pac-10 powerhouse Arizona, who comes in as the eighth seed. The winner of the Griz-Wolfpack game will play the winner of the Boston College-Pacific game.

The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, who beat the Griz 78-74 in Missoula on Dec. 30, is the 11-seed in the Minneapolis Region.

Montana will play Thursday in Salt Lake City at the Jon M. Huntsman Center, which gives Griz fans a reasonable opportunity to travel to the game.

"It's a pretty sweet deal," Krystkowiak said. "You are looking at seven hours, eight hours in the car. It's certainly better than having to go any place else."

Lady Griz season ends with loss to Northern Arizona

SARAH SWAN

MONTANA KAIMIN

The University of Montana women's basketball team will have to put away their dancing shoes and save them until next year.

Montana's hopes of playing in the NCAA tournament were dashed after a 73-66 loss to Northern Arizona University on Saturday night.

"We certainly were outplayed," UM head coach Robin Selvig said.

The win against Montana allowed NAU to compete against and defeat Weber State in the Big

Sky Conference championship game, which earned NAU an invitation to the NCAA tournament.

Despite an early 6-2 Montana lead in the first half, courtesy of two 3-pointers from UM senior Katie Edwards, the Lumberjacks took control of the game with a 20-5 run that ended with 9:28 left to play in the first half.

"I was disappointed that we got beat on the boards; I think that was the key in the game," Selvig said. "But we competed very well. It was one of those games where we got behind, but we made a good run."

Montana was out-rebounded

40-29 by NAU and never held the lead after the 15:06 mark of the first half.

"I think we were looking for answers to kind of take away some of their weapons," UM junior Sara Gale said. "We stuck with them, but I don't think it was our best game."

Edwards led Montana with 21 points and went 4-for-6 from the 3-point line. Freshman Mandy Morales scored 13 points for UM and sophomore Johanna Closson added another 12.

Going into the Big Sky Conference tournament as the second-seeded team, Selvig said the Lady Griz had no expectations for the outcome of the tournament.

"It was an up-for-grab tournament, as it turned out to be," Selvig said. "The teams had been beating each other all year, so it proved to be an interesting field, and it didn't really surprise me the way it turned out."

Even with the loss that booted them out of the running for the NCAA tournament, Selvig said he couldn't be prouder of his team.

"We have a very good basketball team that had a very good season," Selvig said. "You hope to have the hot hand and throw the best ball (game) in the tournament and we weren't able to do that, but in terms of the overall outlook on the season, we had a really good

year."

Selvig added that his team finished the season with 21 wins and played a good non-conference schedule (the Lady Griz were 21-7 overall and 11-5 in the Big Sky Conference).

"I'm pretty happy with the results," Selvig said.

Gale said she is happy with her team's overall season performance, but finds it hard to celebrate after such a disappointing loss against NAU.

"After that game, you don't feel like a 21-7 team because you don't feel like you played well enough to get the win," Gale said. "It's just disappointing to go out on a game like that. I, personally, would rather lose in a performance that you feel good about."

In spite of the fact that the mighty Lady Griz have stumbled, there is always another season just right around the corner.

"I am very exited for them. I think they're going to see some amazing success," the departing Edwards said. "Lady Griz basketball has some great things to come."

Selvig is also anxious for Montana's upcoming 2006-2007 season.

"We lost two good kids, and it was certainly one of the youngest teams we've ever had, and lots of the young kids had a good year,"

he said. "We hope and expect that they continue to improve and we continue to get better."

With the loss to NAU, UM seniors Jody McLeod and Katie Edwards both wrapped up outstanding Lady Griz careers.

Edwards finds herself atop the Big Sky Conference in career 3-pointers made, with 236.

"It's an honor to be up there on the list, but to me those records are so immaterial," Edwards said. "It's an honor, but even with or without it, I still feel the same way about the team and about the season."

McLeod grabbed 727 career rebounds for the Lady Griz, two short of 10th place on UM's all-time rebounding list.

Selvig said he couldn't be happier with the performances of his two senior players this season.

"They've both had outstanding careers and both had really good years," Selvig said. "I'm proud of the years they've had. They've been good leaders and I am surely going to miss them."

A whirlwind season finally at an end, the Lady Griz seem to be enjoying their much deserved break.

"It's just nice to be on the court and not have to think about running plays, and just getting back to the roots of the game," Gale said.

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Griz football starts spring season practice



Mark Maher/Montana Kaimin

TIM DAILEY
MONTANA KAIMIN

While the University of Montana men's basketball team prepares to write the final chapter

of its great season, the football team just opened the books on 2006.

Though it didn't feel much like spring outside, the Griz kicked off spring practice yesterday inside Washington-Grizzly stadium.

"It's great to be back out," head coach Bobby Hauck said. "We've put in a hard winter of work."

For four of the Grizzlies, that list of work included moving. The Division I-AA transfers are senior quarterback Josh Swogger (Washington State), senior defensive back Dramayne McElroy (Arizona), junior running back Reggie Bradshaw (Louisville) and junior wide receiver Craig Chambers (Washington).

They each donned the Griz headgear for the first time, but will have to wait until Thursday for contact when the pads come out of winter hibernation.

"Initially those four guys looked like they fit in fairly well," Hauck said. "It's hard because we can't do anything with them before we come out on the field except for meetings."

Swogger spent most of the practice throwing with the first team, a role he had grown familiar with at Washington State where he started the first six games of his sophomore season. Prior to a foot injury that sidelined him for the rest of the season, Swogger threw for 1,283 yards and 13 touchdowns.

That is reminiscent of the Grizzly backfield last year when junior-transfer Jason Washington started the first four games. But, redshirt-freshman Cole Bergquist finished out the season after Washington separated his shoulder.

Bergquist went mainly with the second team yesterday, while Washington worked with the

third-string unit.

But, Hauck doesn't want to read too much into the rotation on day one.

"It'll be just like every posi-

"We have a good number of players right now that haven't played at live speed...The big thing is figuring out which of them we can count on in the fall."

—Bobby Hauck, head coach

tion," he said. "Depth will change every day. The key for us is to hopefully have a depth chart set when we get done with spring practice."

Unfortunately, for the quarterbacks only one can be the starter, unlike at receiver or running back. Because both are positions that rotate frequently, Chambers and Bradshaw will have ample opportunities to contribute.

Bradshaw will look to complement last year's leading rusher senior Lex Hilliard. The Walter Payton Award candidate ran for more than 1,300 yards and 12 touchdowns for the Griz.

Meanwhile, Chambers joins a group of young receivers that had

no juniors last year and only one senior. That senior was Jon Talmage who finished his career the fifth all-time leader in yardage with 2,511 receiving yards. There will be plenty of catches to be redistributed among the young receivers in Talmage's vacancy.

McElroy joins a defensive unit that is relatively young, but lost some key starters to graduation. McElroy saw limited action at Arizona but will hope to remedy that this spring.

The Grizzlies have seven offensive and 10 defensive players who started games last season.

The transfers and the inexperienced players have 14 more spring practices to work their way up the depth chart. Included in that number is three scrimmages.

"We have a good number of players right now that haven't played at live speed," Hauck said. "The big thing is figuring out which of them we can count on in the fall."

Hauck said that his team's overall health will dictate how his staff plans each scrimmage.

Right now, scrimmages are tentatively scheduled in Washington-Grizzly Stadium for March 24 and April 14 with one in Kalispell on April 8.

The April 14 scrimmage will mark the end of the spring practice. Practices are on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. except during spring break.

Weekend roundup: Tennis, track and television time

Gill finishes 12th

University of Montana senior Jas Gill finished tied for 12th in the high jump at the 2006 Division I Indoor Track and Field Championships in Fayetteville, Ark.

Gill's jump of 6-11 3/4 feet was well short of his career high of 7-2 1/2 feet. Gill missed three consecutive attempts at 7-1 feet. University of Southern California senior Jesse Williams won the event with a jump of 7-6 feet, while Gill ended up tied with David Pendergrass of Brigham Young University.

Montana will open its outdoor season at the Sacramento State Invitational on March 26.

Men's tennis beat up in New Mexico

It was a rough week for University of Montana tennis as the men's team dropped all three of its matches on a road trip to

New Mexico. The Griz lost 4-3 to the College of Santa Fe, 6-1 to New Mexico State and 5-2 to Nevada.

UM was led over the weekend by senior Jan Steenekamp, who went 2-1 in New Mexico, dropping only a three-set decision to Nevada's Guillaume Tonelli.

UM is next in action on March 24, when it will play four matches in three days against Weber State, Utah, Utah State and Idaho State.

Women's tennis splits weekend series

The University of Montana women's tennis team split their weekend matches at the Boise State Invitational. Montana lost a 7-0 match to the host Broncos before beating up on Lewis and Clark State, 6-1.

UM was soundly defeated by Boise State, the 75th-ranked team in the country, but sophomore Mari Castello managed to extend

her match at the No. 2 slot with Megan Biorkman to three games before losing 6-1, 6-7, 10-7.

On Saturday, Montana rebounded from its loss to crush the Warriors. UM won the doubles point and five of the six singles matches to coast to victory.

UM is 3-4 on the year and will next play Montana State on March 23, in Missoula.

MSU head coach Durham steps down

BOZEMAN (AP) — Montana State men's basketball coach Mick Durham said Monday he is retiring after 16 years at the school, following a 15-15 season in which his team again faltered down the stretch.

Durham, 49, a former MSU basketball player, posted a 246-213 record as a coach. His teams won a pair of league titles, the 1995-96 team advanced to the NCAA tournament and the 2001-02 team

played in the National Invitational Tournament.

This year, the Bobcats returned all five starters from the 2004-05 team and preseason polls predicted they would win the league title. Despite having three all-conference players, including co-defensive MVP Al Beye, the Bobcats went 7-7 in league play and lost six of their final eight games, including a 71-70 loss to Sacramento State in the first round of the league tournament.

Durham's resignation means three Big Sky Conference schools are looking for men's basketball coaches.

Weber State coach Joe Cravens was dismissed Feb. 27, two days after his team finished its second straight losing season with a 10-17 mark. Cravens was 116-88 in seven seasons.

Idaho State coach Doug Oliver announced in mid-January that he would resign at the end of the sea-

son. He had an 88-134 record in eight seasons at ISU.

Montana State hopes to have a new coach in place by early April.

UM officials to be on ESPN

University of Montana Athletic Director Jim O'Day and UM Vice President & Executive Assistant to the President Jim Foley will appear on ESPN's Cold Pizza on Tuesday morning around 9:30.

They will discuss the men's basketball team's appearance in the NCAA tournament. O'Day said he thinks the focus will be on the fact that Montana is a Mid-Major and is getting a somewhat high 12th seed.

O'Day joked that the TV show must be desperate for people to interview.

"Cold Pizza has sunk to new depths of lowness," he said.

A production team is coming in from Helena to shoot the interview, O'Day said.

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KAIMIN SPORTS:

IT'S WHY YOU BREATHE

Food

Continued from Page 1

served pitas with hummus and Semolina cake as meals for \$2, as well as Bedouin Coffee in small cups due to its strong taste compared to American coffee.

“It’s not as strong as Turkish coffee, but it’s pretty strong,” said student volunteer Jinann Bitar. “All of these foods are commonly found across Arab countries.”

On the second floor of the UC, the Children’s World events taught kids about other cultures through plays, songs and arts and crafts.

On the third floor, display booths were set up for onlookers to learn and ask questions about other countries’ cultures. Cultural gifts and baked goods were also available at the booths.

The 2006 International Culture Show also took place in the UC Ballroom Sunday and was one of the main spectacles of the day. The show from noon to 5 p.m. featured 24 traditional performances, including poetry in Hebrew,

Arabic and Farsi, Malaysian candle and bamboo dancing, dances from Tajikistan and belly dancing.

ASUM senator Kofi Abaidoo took part in a presentation of Contemporary African Song and Dance. Abaidoo, a native of the West African country of Ghana, performed with other UM African natives Gabe Ansah, Felicity Dugo and Beatrice Gomiele.

Throughout this week, international activities will be held in the UC. Today a belly dancing class will be taught in UC 332 from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. Later, from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m., a West African dance class will be taught with live music in the UC Ballroom. Then at 6 p.m., Ph.D. student Tshewang Wangchuck, from Bhutan, will give a presentation called “Bhutan – a Himalayan Land of Contradictions” in UC 332.

Other events are scheduled for later in the week, all of them free and open to the public. For more information, call 243-6865 or visit www.umt.edu/oip/events.htm.



Eleena Fikhman/Montana Kaimin

The flags of Tunisia, Tanzania and Haiti hang in the UC as part of the decorations for International week. The International Food Festival was held on Sunday featuring a variety of foods from other countries, dancing and activities for children.



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Cap

Continued from Page 1

the desert and finds an oasis, but can’t drink the water.

With the spending cap, the Legislature would have to cut appropriations somewhere, and higher education would be a likely target, Feaver said.

“Any time you limit what the state can spend, you cause the state to make decisions,” Feaver said. “I have no doubt you would see higher education funding get cut.”

The initiative’s author, Travis Butcher, calls that “chicken-little syndrome.”

“You could make that case with any branch of government,” Butcher said. “We have to trust our legislators to prioritize spending.”

Butcher ranches and farms in Winifred and also does some business consulting. Though he doesn’t have a hard-and-fast political affiliation, he acknowledges a conservative tendency.

The benefit of the spending cap would be in stabilization, he said. The Legislature would know exactly how much it would have to spend each session. It

would also create a stable tax structure that would encourage long-term investment by business, Butcher said.

He also believes a spending cap would help keep taxes down, he said. Many Montanans are over-taxed in part because of wasteful spending by the government, he said.

“Special interest groups are certainly going to have to justify what may be frivolous spending,” he said.

Butcher believes CI-97 would avoid the pitfalls Colorado’s spending cap encountered.

“This has incredible flexibility,” Butcher said. “It has about 18 exceptions.”

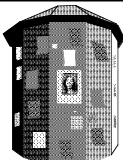
For example, in the event of an emergency – such as a bad fire season – the Legislature would have the authority to allocate extra money, Butcher said. Furthermore, they could put requests for extra money for non-emergencies to a statewide vote.

“I trust voters to make the right decision,” Butcher said.

And he thinks their first right decision on the issue will be approving the spending cap initiative.

“If I didn’t think the voters of Montana wanted this, I wouldn’t put the elbow grease into bringing it forward,” he said.

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Missoula County Public Schools is recruiting for a Head Volleyball coach @ Hellgate HS and (3) Volleyball coaches at Washington MS. Job descriptions are available at the Personnel Office. Complete and Submit the extra-curricular application available at the Personnel Office at 215 S. 6th St W or printable from the District website. www.mcps.k12.mt.us EEO Employer

TARGET is seeking Fast, Fun and Friendly team members to work on our early morning socking team. Must be available at 4 or 5am and willing to work a flexible part-time work schedule. Shifts are approx. 4 hours/ 16-25 hours per week. Perfect for the college student wanting extra cash and a work-out before class! Apply today at 2420 North Reserve Street! Target is an EOE.

Hiring male & female dancers ages 18-30 great pay!! Dream Girls Entertainment #406-880-7294

Food For Thought is hiring front counter help. Apply in person at 540 Daly.

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ROOMMATES NEEDED

U-area large room furnished clean pet? 4300 some utilities 239-4655

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Knuckleheads BBQ Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner. 4 Breakfast under \$3-15% Griz Card Discount Always! Free WiFi. Open 7am Daily 450 W Broadway by St. Pat's

Models wanted ASAP. For more info go to www.image-modelsearch.com

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Diamond Dream wholesale and supply see ad in Friday's paper (406) 449-GOLD

E-mail CLASSIFIED ADS To: classifieds@kaimin.org

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